

CLAIMS

1. A cooking area comprising at least one heating element (1), a power controller (31) for setting a heating output of the heating element (1) which operates according to the set heating output in a first operating mode (I) or in a second operating mode (II), and an indicating device (35) which indicates the set heating outputs in the first operating mode (I) with symbols from a first set of symbols ("1", "2", "3", "4",...), characterised in that the indicating device (35) indicates heating outputs in the second operating mode (II) with symbols from a second set of symbols ("_", "=", "≡").
2. The cooking area according to claim 1, characterised in that the indicating device (35) is embodied as a single-digit seven-segment display.
3. The cooking area according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the first set of symbols comprises a series of numbers from "0" to "9".
4. The cooking area according to claim 2 or 3, characterised in that the second set of symbols comprises combinations of three transverse segments (41, 43, 45) of the seven-segment display (35).
5. The cooking area according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the heating outputs associated with the first operating mode are grouped in a group (I) of low heating outputs and the heating outputs associated with the second operating mode are grouped in a group (II) of high heating outputs
6. The cooking area according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the first operating mode is a continuous operating mode in which power is supplied continuously to the heating element (1).
7. The cooking area according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the second operating mode is a clocked operating mode in which power is supplied discontinuously to the heating element (1).

8. The cooking area according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the heating element (1) is a gas burner which is supplied with gas via a gas pipe (15).
9. The cooking area according to claim 8, characterised in that the clocked operating mode is activated at heating outputs below a minimum heating output at which the heating element (1) is still operating with a minimal continuous supply of gas in the continuous operating mode.
10. The cooking area according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the display device (35) displays the symbols for indicating power stages in which the heating element (1) is operating in the clocked mode as flashing.